

66-2771/R

21 June 1966

Dear Mr. President:

I thoroughly appreciate your most kind letter of June 18th and I am grateful for the confidence which you expressed in me and particularly for the opportunity to have served you.

Knowing of your genuine affection for the "little man," I thought perhaps you would enjoy with me another "vote of confidence" which I also prize.

Respectfully yours,

15/ "Red"

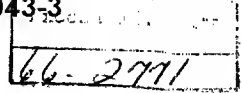
W. F. Raborn

Enclosure

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



June 18, 1966

Dear Red:

Throughout your significant career of service to your country, you have always responded with high ability and strong loyalty. You unhesitatingly demonstrated this response last year when I recalled you from retirement to lead the sensitive operations of the Central Intelligence Agency. Your leadership of this agency in a critical time in the country's history has been truly outstanding.

Your desire to return now to a well-earned retirement is entirely understandable. When I appointed you I indicated that you could leave when the agency was well organized and a competent successor available. From your statement and from my observations I agree with you that these conditions have been met. Nevertheless, it is with regret that I accept your resignation and your departure from my Administration effective upon the appointment and qualification of your successor.

In your leaving you take with you not only my gratitude but that of your fellow countrymen who have been served so well by your unique powers of leadership and understanding.

I wish you every success and happiness in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. F. Raborn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Admiral W. F. Raborn
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE 5

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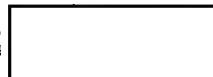
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20 JUNE 66

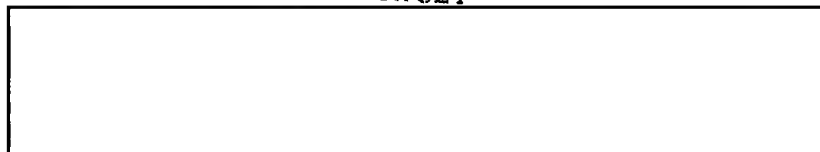


STAT

THIS MAY BE NO BUSINESS OF MINE BUT I THINK IT IS, AS I AM
AN AMERICAN. I LIKE THE C.I.A. OFFICIALS JUST AS THEY WERE.

STAT PLEASE ASK MR RABORN NOT TO RESIGN, PLEASE

YOURS VERY TRULY



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